

## Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /062 W

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R 311345Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7031

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T SANA 3682

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, YE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

SUMMARY: DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO YAR PRES HAMDI FROM NORTHERN TRIBES APPEARS TO HAVE MELTED SINCE ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN AL-AHMAR'S RETURN FROM SAUDI ARABIA. HAMDI APPEARS IN STRONGER POSITION THAN EVER.

1. HASHID TRIBAL CHIEFTAIN ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN AL-AHMAR IS MAKING A CONSPICUOUS SHOW OF HIS RECONCILIATION WITH YAR PRESIDENT HAMDI SINCE THEIR JOINT RETURN FROM THE HAJ AND MEETINGS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS.

2. AFTER RETURNING BRIEFLY TO KHAMR, ABDALLAH HAS BEEN IN SANA, MAKING VISITS TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WITH A HEAVY GOVERNMENT GUARD OF HONOR. HAMDI MADE A BRIEF TRIP TO KHAMR. IN PUBLIC PROTOCOL MATTERS, ABDALLAH HAS CEDED PLACE OF HONOR TO HAMDI, IN LINE WITH NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT THE SAUDIS TOLD HIM FORCEFULLY THAT THEY INTENDED TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE YAR PRESIDENT.

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3. THERE ARE NO RUMORS IN SANA OF ANY WRITTEN OR EVEN

VERBAL AGREEMENT ON PARTICULAR POINTS WHICH HAVE BEEN AT ISSUE BETWEEN HAMDI AND ABDALLAH--FOR INSTANCE, WHEN ELECTIONS MIGHT BE HELD, WHETHER ANY CABINET CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE, WHAT JOBS ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN MIGHT EXPECT TO GET. THE RECURRENT STORY IS THAT THE SAUDIS UPPED THE SUBSIDY FOR ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN, AND WHILE HE IS DISCONTENT WITH HIS LACK OF POLITICAL SUPPORT AND SUCCESS, HE SEES NO ALTERNATIVE FOR THE MOMENT TO ACQUIESENCE.

4. CONCERNS ABOUT A FLARE-UP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT TROOPS AND ARMED TRIBESMEN ALONG THE ROAD NORTH OF SANA TO SAADA HAVE DWINDLED SHARPLY. TRIBAL AND GOVERNMENT ROADBLOCKS ARE STILL IN PLACE, BUT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS HAVE BEEN THINNED OUT, AND THE TENSION HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED.

5. HAMDI IS REPORTED TO BE VERY HAPPY WITH HIS PRESENT POLITICAL POSITION, WHICH WOULD SEEM TO BE EVEN STRONGER NOW THAN BEFORE THE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE WHICH BEGAN WITH THE TURKI MISSION. CRITICS LIKE ABU SHUWARIB, ON THE OTHER HAND, LOOK TO HAVE PAINTED THEMSELVES INTO A TIGHT CORNER.  
SCOTES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, YE, (AL-AHMAR, ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN)  
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